



**DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.**  
Director

## **County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

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May 24, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
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From: David Sanders, Ph.D.  
Director

### **FOSTER PARENT CAREGIVER SUPPORT**

In response to concerns regarding redeployment of foster care support staff please find attached a draft correspondence to DCFS Foster Parent Caregivers. This document may also be helpful as a "fact sheet" as it contains specific contact information for regional-based foster care questions comments and concerns.

As you are aware we have been focusing on key areas and priority outcomes. We are committed to providing additional service resources to achieve our Departmental goals. To that end redeployment continues to be a key strategy of the Department.

To date we have redeployed over 200 CSW and SCSW's from non-case carrying positions to case carrying positions and have seen initial improvements in some outcomes. Specifically, as we have reduced caseloads for case carrying CSW's we have seen a reduction in the incidents of abuse or neglect in foster homes.

If you have any questions please call me or your staff may contact Helen Berberian of the Board and Commission Section at 213-361-5530.

DS:AS

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel

# DRAFT

Dear Foster Parent Caregiver:

Over the last year, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has been working diligently on three priority outcomes focusing on key areas that will improve the lives of all children served by DCFS. These priority outcomes include:

## *Improved Permanence*

Shorten the timelines for permanency for children removed from their families with a particular emphasis on reunification, kinship and adoption. Reductions in the emancipation population will also be critical.

## *Improved Safety*

Significantly reduce the recurrence rate of abuse or neglect for children investigated and reduce the rate of abuse in foster care.

## *Reduced Reliance on Detention*

Reduce reliance on detention through expansion of alternative community-based strategies.

Currently, all Department programs and initiatives are focused on supporting these three priority outcomes. In order to meet these priority outcomes, staff affiliated with the Foster Care Support Services Section was redeployed to the regional level. The redeployment of non-case carrying social workers to case-carrying positions is an on-going Department-wide effort to more effectively meet the needs of children and families and support the work needed to achieve the three priority outcomes. By transferring more staff into the field, caseloads are being reduced. Social workers have more time to meet with children and families and provide vital services at the regional level.

We recognize the critical need to continue support for our foster parent caregivers. To meet this need, DCFS is working to engage the community in various ways to provide the support needed. The Department is in the process of implementing the following structures to foster care support services at the regional level:

## *Foster Parent Forums/Neighborhood Support Groups*

These services will continue within the *Family to Family* initiative under the direction of Michael Rauso, Division Chief, Multi-Agency Services Division. Mr. Rauso's office telephone number is (213) 738-2731.

## *Respite Care*

This service request continues to be processed directly through your child's Children's Social Worker.

## *D and F Rate Assessments*

D and F rate assessment requests continue to be processed through the child's Children's Social Worker. This structure is in the development of a new delivery of this service in an attempt to look closely at the criteria as well as the target population and the ongoing need for this high level in order to effectively utilize it in the most appropriate way.

#### *Foster Caregiver Training*

MAPP training and training conferences, Foster Care Handbook (pending staff allocation) continues under the direction of Nina Powell-McCall, Program Manager, Foster Family Home Development Section. Ms. Powell-McCall's office telephone number is (213) 639-4799.

#### *Small Family Home Program*

The monitoring and development of Small Family Homes will be coordinated by the Medical Director's office to be implemented as a crisis management on-call service for this target population.

#### *Clinical and Placement Support*

This structure is in its development process under the Medical Director. It will be a consultative program support to each regional office as the needs arise in placement difficulties.

#### *Operational Matters/Problem Solving*

Any issues, problems and questions that may arise regarding the child under your care that cannot be resolved by the child's Children's Social Worker can now be directed to the Service Bureau/ Regional Office liaison.

Service Bureau 1 Liaison (Regional Offices North Hollywood, Santa Clarita, and West Los Angeles) *Name, phone number o liaison.*

Service Bureau 2 Liaison (Regional Offices Wilshire, Century, Hawthorne, and Wateridge) *Name, phone number*

Service Bureau 3 Liaison (Regional Offices Antelope Valley East, Antelope Valley West, Covina, Pomona, Pasadena) *name, phone number*

Service Bureau 4 Liaison (Regional Offices Santa Fe Springs, Belvedere, Lakewood and Torrance). The Liaison is Otho Day and he can be reached at (562) 497-6351.

Your services and commitment to the children we serve is appreciated.

David Sanders, Ph.D.  
Director

